

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Apparatus and methods are provided for a tentative-hold-based protocol for distributed transaction processing. According to one embodiment, a distributed transaction coordinator receives information regarding an atomic distributed transaction representing an aggregation of multiple discrete transactions for resource items that span two or more network resources. The distributed transaction coordinator places a tentative hold on each of the resource items by causing a tentative hold record to be created and associated with each of the discrete transactions. The tentative holds operate in a non-mutually exclusive manner, thereby allowing the same resource item to be tentatively held by more than one transaction. Finally, after successfully gaining the tentative holds on each of the resource items and receiving a confirmation from the user regarding the atomic distributed transaction, the distributed transaction manager attempts to direct the completion of the atomic distributed transaction by conventional means (e.g., by employing the 2PC protocol, Microsoft Transaction Service (MTS), IBM's CICS, BEA Tuxedo, or other existing transaction completion mechanism).